

State Adaptations to Term Limits:

Six State Study; Joint Project on Term Limits
November 14, 2006:

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ARIZONA:

1. Enhanced legislator training orientation & on-going on issues & institution [16]
2. reduced the number of committees [16]
3. committee briefings by specialists [16]
4. increased inclusiveness on policy making & budget [10]

ARKANSAS:

1. Institutionalized party leadership: majority & minority leaders and whips & party caucuses [36]
2. Speaker-designate elected in biennium before Speaker's election [37 & bk-84]
3. Increased reciprocal voting, especially for earmarks [29]
4. Increased power of the Speaker appointing committee chairs & members [37]
5. Increased number of leadership posts: 1 assist Pro Temp per Congressional district [36]
6. Placed all leadership positions on Interim governing body [36]
7. Increased membership on Joint Budget [44]
8. Created three subcommittees per committee [42]
9. Increased membership on interim governing committee [44]
10. Increased number of committee chairs through subcommittees [42]
11. Speaker hosted dinners of small groups of newbies before session began [bk-83-84]

CALIFORNIA:

1. Seek to retain experienced staff to counter balance inexperienced legislators [97]
2. Invest in non-partisan staff [98]
3. Senate locked-in committee consultants, preventing early turnover [bk-97]
4. Create permanent records of knowledge & wisdom & practice [98]
5. Institutionalize legislator mentoring [98]
6. Create a curriculum & institute to conduct continuous training [98-99]
7. Bolstered training on oversight function of legislature [100-101]
8. Overhauled budget process [102-103]
more joint subcommittee hearings
Give subcommittees specific funding targets
Subcommittee proposals reported under 'closed' rules, i.e. "locked"
Strengthen analysis function of staff
Chairs of subcommittees should be on conference on the budget
9. Speaker elected in Spring of 2d year of biennium [bk-84]

COLORADO:

1. Allow in-session substitution of members on committees [55]
2. Involve all staff units in bolstered orientation [69]
3. Adopt a tight session deadline schedule [74]
4. Create "Leadership" notebooks [119]
5. Enrich orientation [116-118]
6. Created a staff-member 'Buddy' system [121]
7. Created 'briefing books'/digests on policy [122]
8. Called for white papers on policy issues [122]
9. More budget focus during orientation [122]

MAINE:

1. Expanded orientation [65]
2. Created a curriculum committee of Leg Council
for orientation [66]
3. Assigned veteran members as mentors [66]
4. Examined procedures with eye toward changes needed
(none adopted) [67]
5. Attempted to limit bill introductions(failed) [67]
6. Considered creating written legislative history
for committees and policy issues [67-68]
7. Created a program evaluation office
modeled on Florida's OPPAGA [68]

OHIO:

1. Speaker recruits & trains candidates [16]
2. Political caucuses are the deliberative forum, not committees [16]
3. New members rely upon caucus staff for policy advice
and personal staff for process advice [16]
4. Political caucuses conduct orientation
before elections are complete [17]
5. Conduct an official five day orientation [17]
6. Speaker paired experienced R [mentor] with candidates from
safe districts, before election [bk-83]

Notes on State Adaptations for Term Limits:

(telephone discussions and OK Staff report and articles)

November 14, 2006

AZ:

1. partisan staff grew thru hiring of policy advisors
2. lengthened orientation from 1 to 3 days
bill process, caucuses, mock sessions, mock committees
1st week in DEC odd #'d years
3. conduct follow-up sessions on orientation topics
during early session (Jan.)
4. conduct committee chair training
5. will perform personal topic training
6. increased leadership training
7. no discernable increase in bill filings in 1st year of term
8. asked senior members to record thoughts – not successful
9. instituted bill filing limits, similar to LA's
10. centralized constituent service office for Senate

AR

1. Formed regional caucuses (Cong Districts) to balance committee representation statewide
2. Each caucus elects 5 members to each committee
3. Speaker appoints Rules and Management committees
4. Members can chair only 1 committee
5. Committee meetings follow set schedules, not at whim of Chair
6. Formed Bureau of Constituency Services to help citizens with problems with state government
7. Members can attend committee meetings even if they are not members and receive *per diem*
8. Instituted a 5 day work week
9. Re-elected the Speaker to 2nd term

CA

1. Suggest establishing nonpartisan parliamentary office and office of legislative history

CO

1. Established committee to examine and formalize the customs, practices, traditions, and norms of the House

FL:

1. changed physical layout of chamber to emphasize role of legislature
2. created Legislative Research Center
charged with tracking history of Legislature in systematic manner
videography – oral histories of leaders
use uniform questions
has an external Board of Directors, past leaders (not limited to presiding officers)
3. created FL Legislative History Museum
4. extracted portions of those oral histories into clips on leadership, institution
created dvd's
use in orientation
5. extracted video/audio clips from sessions to illustrate procedure issues
6. will do so for committee chairs
7. decorated Hallways with archival photos of legislators & moments of history
8. History of House is now portion of orientation
9. evolution of FL const. now part of orientation
10. conduct an annual member reunion

MI

1. Reduced number of committees – 28 to 21
2. Reduced size of committees
3. Computerized House operations & increased transparency of process through technology
4. Limited conference committees to considering only the difference between houses
5. Increased appropriation bill details
6. Emphasized oversight function of committees
7. Established a year-long work calendar.
8. Orientation is run by MI State University
focuses on: current policies; policy options;
9. Each new members is assigned a leadership buddy/mentor
10. Fiscal office created material for lawmakers detailing state's appropriation process

MO

1. Created more intense and comprehensive orientation
2. conducts a bus tour of state facilities
3. develop continuing education of greater depth of subject
4. create mentoring process
5. reduce number of committees [45 committees]
6. reduce number of committee appointments
7. increase use of interim committees
8. create uniform committee rules
9. establish session calendar/schedules
10. promote leadership opportunities for new members
11. improve record keeping and archiving

OK:

1. A mentorship program was established, run by the caucuses, to help prepare the newer members to take charge of the institution.
2. The formal majority leadership was expanded to include a larger number of junior members and some freshmen. Also, it was made more demographically diverse.
3. Freshmen were placed on the Appropriations Committee.
4. Freshmen orientation was expanded to two full days.
5. All floor business was moved to a single agenda.
6. House Rules were amended to require:
bills to lie on the desk for 24 hours before being heard;
all committee amendments be prefiled;
all floor amendments be prefiled;
7. Bills which required floor amendments were recommitted to committee for amendments.
8. Roll call votes were taken in committee as official meeting minutes.
9. Committee chairmen were chosen on the basis of qualifications and not seniority.
10. The formal majority leadership positions were selected on the basis of qualifications and not seniority.
11. Minority caucus established shadow chairmen.
12. Both parties now name a Speaker Designate prior to the elections;
these candidates are NOT in their final term and are eligible to serve for 4 years as Speaker.
13. Speaker added policy staff to his office.

OH

1. Chooses Speaker designate
2. Daily caucus meetings at critical session points to keep members informed